a separate entity. Its employees therefore continue to be governed by the service conditions, including pay and allowances, as applicable to employees of the company prior to the decision of merger.

Increase in Air Accidents

939. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents involving Indian Airlines planes are increasing for the last one year ;

(b) if so, how many accidents took place during 1992-93 till date indicating in how many cases probe was ordered into IA mishaps ;

(c) whether Government received reports of Inquiry in such cases including of Airbus A-300 Aircraft which was involved in an accident while operating flight No. IC-440 from Madras to Hyderabad near Tirupati on November 15, 1993 ; and

(d) what preventive measures Government have taken so far on the basis of recommendations made by various Committees ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There have been two accidents involving Indian Airlines aircraft during 1993 compared to one in 1992.

(b) Investigations have been conducted/ ordered into the aforesaid three accidents.

(c) The reports of investigation into the accidents which took place on 26-4-93 near Aurangabad and on 15-11-93 near Tirupathi are awaited from the Courts of Inquiry. The investigation report of the other accident has been received by the Government.

(d) The preventive measures recommended in various investigations into accidents on acceptance by the Government are implemented from time to time. Some of the specific measures which have been taken to improve the level of air safety are :—

(i) Monitoring of aircraft maintenance standards and safety audit of airlines by DGCA.

(ii) Upgradation of facilities at airports.

(iii) Periodic inspection of aerodromes.

(iv) Implementation of measures to eradicate bird menace at airports.

(v) Monitoring of flight recorders.

(vi) Dissemination of safety information to operators.

Payment by Air India to the Register of companies for forming Air India Ltd.

940. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has paid Rs. 80 lakhs to the Registrar of companies for forming a new company, Air India Ltd. and has thus lost a huge amount by way of interest even though a bill to this effect is yet to be passed by Parliament ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore ; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter and also to fix responsibility for unwarranted blocking of the Air India funds ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The fee paid is in accordance with the scale of fees laid down by Government for registration of companies. Since the purpose of the incorporation was to create a company to take over the undertaking of Air India, on repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, the loss is only notional.